GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2172
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
INTRODUCTION OF CELL PHONE OF BSNL IN REMOTE AREAS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce cell phone of BSNL in remote area of the country especially in Karnataka.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when this service is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has already covered 589 District Headquarters (DHQs) of the country including all the DHQs of the Karnataka. Further, BSNL has provided cellular coverage to 3552 Cities/towns in the country including 319 cities/towns of Karnataka. `As per the terms & conditions of the license for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS), an operator for Telecom Circle Service Area is required to cover 10% of the District Head Quarters in the service area within one year and 50% of the District Head Quarter within three years. The licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of District Head Quarter. The choice of District Head Quarters/Towns shall lie with the licensee depending upon their business decision. It is not mandatory under the License agreement to cover 100% of the service area.`

BSNL is, however, in the process of expanding it`s cellular network up to Tehsil headquarters and important towns based on commercial viability during next financial year (2005-06).

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.